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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 /079 W
----------103793 141702Z /43
O R 141630Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6943
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0501

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: MEETING OF CAPE TOWN FIVE WITH FOURIE MARCH 14

REF: CAPE TOWN 0482,

FOLLOWING IS JOINT REPORT OF CAPE TOWN FIVE ON THEIR MEETING
WITH FOURIE, MARCH 14.

1. THE CAPE TOWN FIVE MET FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF WITH
BRAND FOURIE THIS AFTERNOON AND TOOK HIM THROUGH THE TALKING
POINTS IN USUN 870.

2. THROUGHOUT OUR PRESENTATION HE NOTED THAT THE CLARIFICATIONS
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PRESENTED WERE IN THE NATURE OF AN EXPLANATION AND DID NOT MEET
THE SOUTH AFRICAN OBJECTIONS. AT THE END OF THE REVIEW HE
CONCLUDED THAT ESSENTIALLY THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN THE POSITION
OF THE CONTACT GROUP EXCEPT WITH REGARD TO THE CHANGE IN
PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE PROPOSALS MAKING EXPLICIT THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR
GENERAL AND THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WOULD "WORK TOGEHTER."

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3. FOURIE WENT ON TO DESCRIBE THOSE THINGS WHICH CAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY. HE DEFINED THESE AS:

A) LEAVING THE ADVANCE BASES ALONG THE BORDER UNPROTECTED, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "UTTERLY, UTTERLY UNACCEPTABLE ... THE GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER AGREE TO THIS;"

B) THE SIZE OF THE RESIDUAL FORCE WHICH HE MENTIONED BUT DID NOT ELABORATE;

C) THE LACK OF AN EXPLICIT CONSENSUS FORMULA COVERING THE DETERMINATION OF THE SIZE AND COMPOSITION OF UNTAG.

4. FOURIE OBSERVED THAT BOTHA WILL HAVE A VERY HARD TIME IN DEALING WITH HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES ON THE BASIS OF THE POSITIONS WE PRESENTED. HE WAS NOT VERY OPTIMISTIC ON THE BASIS OF THE AMMUNITION WE HAVE SO FAR OFFERED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF PER-SUADING THE GOVERNMENT AND NATIONAL PARTY PARLIAMENTARIANS TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSAL. WE WERE STRUCK BY FOURIE'S UNCHARACTERISTI-CALLY PESSIMISTIC ATTITUDE TO WHAT WE HAD TO TELL HIM. HE LISTENED TO OUR ARGUMENTS ON EACH POINT BUT HIS RESPONSE REFLECTED A PERVASIVE SCEPTICISM WHICH WE HAVE NOT ENCOUNTERED WITH HIM IN PREVIOUS SESSIONS. WE TRIED TO DRAW HIM OUT ON THE LIKELY RESPONSE TO THE SAG IN THE EVENT THAT THE CONTACT GROUP FINALIZES THE PROPOSALS IN THEIR PRESENT FORM. HE UNDERSTANDABLY
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REFUSED TO COMMIT HIS MINISTER ON THIS ASPECT.

5. FOURIE TOOK NOTE OF THE FACT THAT THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS ARE STILL CONSIDERING THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND WILL REVERT TO HIM ON THIS ASPECT. WE BELIEVE HE DID NOT INCLUDE THE WITHDRAWAL DATE IN HIS LIST OF UNACCEPTABLE PROVISIONS PENDING FURTHER WORD FROM US. WE CONTINUE TO THINK REVISION OF THE PRESENT CONCEPT IS IMPORTANT, PREFERABLY USING SOME FORMULA IN PARAGRAPH 8(B) WHICH REQUIRES WITHDRAWAL OF THE RESIDUAL FORCE SHORTLY AFTER CERTIFICATION OF THE ELECTION RESULTS UNLESS THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY REQUESTS OTHERWISE.
BOWDLER

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